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## PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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### *Assignment of inspectors to the fruit ports of Central and South America.*

The following-named acting assistant surgeons have been appointed and assigned to duty at American consulates in the fruit ports of Central and South America below named for the coming season for the purpose of inspecting vessels, their cargoes, and crews bound from said ports to ports of the United States and its insular possessions: D. W. Goodman, Port Limon, Costa Rica; T. B. L. Layton, Bluefields, Nicaragua; W. B. Robertson, Belize, British Honduras; Paul Osterhout, Bocas del Toro, Panama; C. K. Roe, Tela, Honduras; L. A. Wailes, Livingston, Guatemala; V. C. Reynolds, Ceiba, Honduras; R. P. Ames, Puerto Cortez, Honduras.

### UNITED STATES.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

#### *Report from Chicago, Ill.—Epidemic diphtheria and scarlet fever—Measles.*

Surgeon Young reports, March 4, as follows:

The original source of infection in the recent epidemic of scarlet fever accompanied by diphtheria in Chicago is as yet undetermined, but the definite manner in which the disease spread and its distinct localization make it quite plain that this outbreak was more than an unexplained increase in the scarlet fever commonly present in this as in other cities.

*Diphtheria.*—There is nothing in the epidemic history of this disease of especial note, except for the effect of inspection on the control and the rather curious fact that side by side with the unmistakable diphtheria there were a large number of cases—constituting another epidemic, in fact—of tonsillar inflammations accompanying attacks of influenza.

I personally saw several of these cases. They were very suggestive of incipient diphtheria, but the laboratory findings were negative.

The city laboratory found an unusually large number of the cases reported as diphtheria suspects to be influenza.

*Scarlet fever.*—The disease first became sufficiently prevalent to attract attention in the extreme northwestern part of the city in the latter part of November. Some increase had been noted late in October, but that increase seems to have been in part distinct from the subsequent epidemic invasion.